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HARFORD COUNTY RECEIVES AWARD FOR BRIDGE PROJECT

(Bel Air, MD - September 17, 2008) - - Harford County Department of Public Works has been recognized by the County Engineers Association of Maryland, (CEAM) for the County Project of the Year Award for projects under \$500,000. The project selected for this prestigious award was the recently completed

Jerusalem Mill Road Pedestrian Bridge.

In 1772, the fourth in a series of eight mills was completed along the Little Gunpowder Falls in what is now Harford County. For more than 200 years the mill, named for the nearby village of Jerusalem Mill, operated successfully. In 1961, the last person to operate the mill died and the mill was subsequently closed.

The mill and surrounding property fell into a state of disrepair for a number of years until it was purchased by the State of Maryland and incorporated into the Gunpowder State Park. Additionally, a local support group organized in 1985 known as "Friends of Jerusalem Mill" took the initiative to repair and update not only the mill, but several of the surrounding buildings on the property and park. Soon the area began attracting thousands of visitors each year.

However, one significant challenge remained for those visiting Jerusalem Mill and the park; the need for safe and practical passage for pedestrians to traverse the trail system that ran from the mill area and required pedestrians to cross the heavily traveled and narrow vehicular bridge over the Little Gunpowder Falls. Clearly there was a need to construct a new bridge for pedestrians to safely cross the stream.

Since the project spanned the river separating Baltimore and Harford Counties and was also being constructed for a State park in the Maryland Department of Natural Resources; it was deemed multi-jurisdictional and would require the input and funding from all three organizations. Thus, the staff of Harford County Department of Public Works in particular, the Project Engineer Mr. Julio Espinoza, was tasked with gaining the support of Baltimore County and DNR, as well as establishing the cost each jurisdiction would be responsible for to complete the project.

In 2006, with agreements secured from all parties, Northeast Engineering, Inc. was

awarded the contract for design of the project which included a new brick sidewalk to access the bridge from the mill and steps to access the trail on the Baltimore County side of the bridge. The sidewalk and bridge were made handicapped accessible so the view from the bridge could be enjoyed by all. Kinsley Construction, Inc. of York, Pennsylvania was the low bidder for construction of the bridge and was awarded the contract.

The bridge design required a pre-manufactured steel truss bridge on concrete abutments. This was decision was based on the need for ease of installation, long-term maintenance and aesthetics.

Construction of the new pedestrian bridge began on August 13, 2007 and opened to visitors to the site on November 2, 2007. The project was completed on time and within budget and is a model of multi-jurisdictional cooperation.

"We are extremely honored by the recognition bestowed upon this project by the County Engineers Association of Maryland," County Executive David R. Craig stated. "This project is the capstone for this unique and historical property. We encourage everyone to take advantage of the beauty of this area of Gunpowder State Park and visit the historic Jerusalem Mill property," County Executive Craig remarked.

Harford County Department of Public Works personnel, as well as Northeast Engineering, Inc. and Kinsley Construction, Inc. will be recognized at the CEAM fall conference later this week in Ocean City, Maryland.